



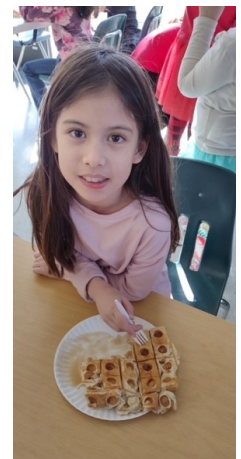
# GOOD NEWS! March, 2023

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18)*



Day Care Kids Celebrate Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, and the Coming of Spring!

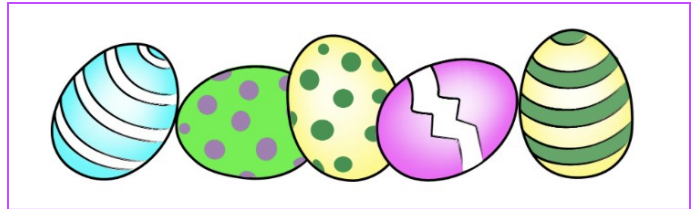
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## MWBC News and Upcoming Events

Holly McIntosh and Cathy Herren are hosting a **Craft Show** in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 18, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You'll find a variety of crafts available for sale from local artists!

Save the date for our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 1, from 11 a.m. to noon on the front lawn. Candy and prizes will be available for all kids! Invite your family and friends — handouts will be available during March. Candy donations are welcome; a box for collecting them will be in the narthex during March. See Barb Cagle with any questions.



The **Maundy Thursday Service**, on April 6, will feature dinner, a service of communion, and a drama. Make plans to join us for this solemn commemoration of the Last Supper and Jesus's arrest and crucifixion.

We'll celebrate **Easter Sunday**, April 9, with a joyous worship service including special music and teaching, as well as our popular Flowering of the Cross. Come early to fellowship together over a continental breakfast of pastries, juices, and coffee.

**Fred Anderson** is following God's leading by continuing his path toward ordination. He met with the D&D Board on February 19 to discuss his ordination paper and future plans. The Board voted to license him to preach, a necessary step in the ordination process. Currently, Fred and his wife, Tacie, are taking classes at Xavier to be licensed in clinical mental health counseling. This will add to his Masters of Divinity degree from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary and his experience as a student ministries pastor. What a joy to see Fred return to his home church, MWBC, to serve and grow into his call from God.

### Notes of Thanks

I want to thank my church family for the generous Love Gift I received. Each year I serve you is better than the one before, each year God gives me to serve Him is a blessing, and I give Him all praise and glory! Thanks again! ~Rev. Jim Cagle

We are deeply grateful for the Love Gifts you blessed us with on February 12, and for the care and support you continuously show us. It is truly a blessing to be in ministry with such a loving congregation. ~Ken and Darby Atchison

Dear church family, Thank you for the generous Love Gift. I have enjoyed working and helping others throughout the years. ~Barb Wagner

*If you'd like to submit an article for the newsletter, please do so by the 15th of each month.*



*Reception of new members Johnetta Stallworth, Jomil Stallworth, and Fred Anderson*

*Photo Credit: Soul devOcean, unsplash.com*



## Music

Since we're in March now, for St. Patrick's Day, I searched for a hymn of Irish history, Irish melody, or Irish theme. The best I found is actually an amazing hymn we sing fairly often. The hymn "Be Thou My Vision" is the result of my search, and when reading the text and music attributed to this hymn, one reads that the words are an ancient Irish hymn and the music is an Irish folk melody. We don't know the actual author of the words, but the Irish hymn it is based on was from the seventh or eighth century.

The Irish church between AD 500 and AD 700 was known for its focus on mission works. In the book *The Complete Book of Hymns* there is a quote from a historian that explains the importance of mission work to the Irish at this time. The quote reads that their missionary fervor "was the one all-absorbing national thought and passion." What a wonderful statement to read and to remember these people! Their mission field was from Scotland to Switzerland. A missionary we do know by name was Columba from County Donegal, who was known as a poet of the Irish church and who loved to sing spiritual songs. This hymn we sing today is anonymous, but the truths and beauty of the words reach out to us all these centuries later. Throughout the song words expressing God are presented. He is my Vision, my Wisdom, my true Word; the words describing Him are capitalized, showing the importance and awesome nature of God. The song continues expressing our joy and hope that God's Grace gives us now and in the future when we reach heaven's joy! The world's riches and praises aren't important to us as things to seek; He is our inheritance and treasure. May He always be first in our hearts no matter what this world puts in our paths as stumbling blocks or negative influences since He is the Ruler of all.

Rev. Jim Cagle, Minister of Music

## Missions

### An Update from the Osterbrocks

Dear friends and partners,

We've had a busy but good start to the year here. Semester started in January, but we also had a regional retreat in Chiang Mai, hosted a team from International Ministries who came to film our ministry here, and celebrated Chinese New Year in Singapore. The retreat was a wonderful opportunity to meet other IM global servants in the area and to reflect on the new things that God is doing in our lives. We especially loved seeing Theophilus strike up a friendship with another missionary kid — a boy of a similar age — at the retreat. The two boys with whom he was friends here both moved away, so watching him make that relational connection was especially precious. We loved getting to host the IM team and show them around Kota Kinabalu and life at the seminary. We're excited that IM chose to highlight the ministry of Sabah Theological Seminary for the World Mission Offering video that will be distributed in October this year. So, for those in the States and at American Baptist Churches, keep an eye out for it!



Thank you for your faithfulness in praying for and partnering with us. Keep rejoicing in our faithful God and remain steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain (I Cor. 15:58)!

Grace and peace,

Aaron, Valerie, Theophilus, Anastasia, Azariah, Micah, & Josiah Osterbrock

### Thoughts from the Interim Pastor *(continued from page 4)*

As MWBC looks for the person God is calling to be our next pastor, we need to have an increase in numbers in worship that echoes the desires of our hearts to be a strong, vital, loving congregation involved in mission, service, and spiritual growth. And that means you need to let the Holy Spirit work in your life to encourage you to be at church, in church, active in church.

Easter is a life-affirming and faith-affirming moment in the year. It's a good entry point, a good starting or restarting point. And it's coming up on April 9th. Invite your family. Invite your friends. Invite yourself.

Blessings and health, Pastor Karen Johnson

# A Family in Ministry

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## Our Staff and Leaders

Rev. Dr. Karen Johnson  
Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. Ken Atchison  
Pastor Emeritus

Jim Cagle  
Minister of Music

Jih-Ting Chen  
Accompanist

Darby Atchison  
Barb Wagner  
Administrative Assistants

Todd Racer  
Praise Band Leader

Tim Rechel  
Tower Bells

Holly McIntosh  
Day Care Director

Tammy Caldwell  
Asst. Day Care Director

Luke Tietmeyer  
Maintenance

*May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*  
(Galatians 6:14)

The vision of Mt. Washington Baptist Church is to be an eternal family. We seek to live as strong families who are fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. We are passionate about helping people find their place in God's family. Our hope is to bless families for generations through worship that is a sacrifice of praise, deep relationships, spiritual transformation, and meaningful ministry.

## Thoughts from the Interim Pastor

Have you changed since the COVID epidemic started? It seems like the whole world has, for indeed the whole world was affected.

I remember the fear and the worry at the beginning of the whole thing. Would we all get it? Would so many people really die from it? With no firm knowledge of how it was spreading, we even wiped off our groceries when we got them home and wore double masks when we absolutely had to go out in public. Oh, there were the brave ones who kept some semblance of our daily lives going, from healthcare workers and firefighters to those who sanitized our buildings. We got daily updates from the state, with the death toll rising each day.

Early on, it was predicted that church attendance would be significantly decreased, both during and after the pandemic. And it is so. Statistically speaking, churches are seeing a third to a half of in-person attendance now as compared to pre-COVID days. It is so at Mt. Washington Baptist Church. I'm reluctant to point this out; I'd prefer to ignore the situation, but we cannot.

The level of fear from COVID has decreased significantly. When I caught COVID at the beginning of this year, I didn't fear for my life. I knew it just had to be endured, and that most cases are now much less destructive to one's health than so many early cases. Vaccines and proper precautions have helped to turn our fears into practical solutions. We feel better when we are able to do something constructive.

And that brings me to the point I most want to share. You should seriously consider coming back to church. I'm asking. Please come back to church! It is a constructive thing you can do. Sure, the church isn't perfect. It is composed of people who are looking to Jesus for strength and growth. Hopefully that describes you. Sure, you have to get up on Sunday morning and travel to church. Putting the worship of God at the forefront of life puts the rest of life in perspective.

(Continued on page 3)

## Messages for March

### March 5

Third Word  
"Let's Not Tear It"  
John 19:23-27

### March 12

Fourth Word  
"Jesus, Remember Me  
When You Come  
into Your Kingdom"  
Luke 23:39-43

### March 19

Fifth Word  
"Surely This Man Was  
the Son of God!"  
Mark 15:33-39

### March 26

Sixth Word  
"Joseph Went Boldly  
to Pilate and Asked  
for Jesus' Body"  
Mark 15:42-47

*And may your hearts be fully committed to the Lord our God, to live by his decrees and obey his commands, as at this time. (1 Kings 8:61)*